

One Fire-fighter Killed, Seven Injured

TOBACCO COMPANY PLANT ON AVENUE DESTROYED IN BLAZE

Capt. Timothy J. Brown Dies While Being Taken to Hospital.

(Continued from First Page.)

Of bricks narrowly missed striking the chief on the head, and had he been a second or two later it is probable that he, too, would have been killed.

The roof of the building on which the men were working was the most advantageous place from which to fight the fire. Members of the three engine companies, with the captain, were stationed on the roof as soon as the pipe lines were laid.

Coroner Nevitt was notified of Brown's death, and after an investigation of the affair and a consultation with Commissioner Rudolph, decided that an inquest would not be necessary.

The fire had been burning about twenty minutes when there was an explosion. There was no warning of the impending danger until the men were buried beneath the falling bricks, the weight carrying down the roof on which they were standing. They were carried through the second floor. Fortunately, there was no fire in this part of the building at the time, or none of the men would have gotten out alive.

Those who were not so badly hurt went to the aid of the more seriously injured. Ladders were hastily put up on the B street side, and with the aid of members of the other companies, the injured men were soon gotten out. Captain Brown was unconscious.

His skull was crushed, and he died before reaching the hospital. All the others were taken to the Emergency Hospital in ambulances. It was found that Private Downs was the only one seriously hurt. The others left after having their injuries dressed.

Aside from the loss of life and the heavy damage, the fire is one of the worst with which the firemen have had to contend in months. Fire Chief Wagner said that he did not understand how the men did as well as they did.

"When I arrived," said the chief, "the whole building was in flames. I had no idea that the blaze would be confined within the walls of the tobacco company."

Ladders Get Out Safely. Adjoining the Washington Tobacco Company on the east is the wholesale establishment of the E. B. Adams Company, dealers in hotels and household supplies, while on the west is the Toledo Cafe. The upper floors of the cafe

building are used as a lodging house, and the rooms were filled with guests when the fire was discovered. No one experienced any trouble in getting out, however.

Officials of the tobacco company said their business would go forward despite the fire. Displaying characteristic enterprise, they have established temporary quarters at the southwest corner of Eighth and D streets northwest. Here they will be able to attend to all the wants of their customers.

The fire started in the basement near the elevator shaft. Fire Marshal Nicholson said that so far he had been unable to determine the cause.

Elevator Shaft Forms Fuel. The elevator shaft formed a flue which drew the flames up to the top of the building, which is a five-story structure. The stairway, nearby, also acted as a means of sending the fire up to the top.

A consignment of 1,000,000 packages of cigarettes and 30,000 pounds of chewing tobacco had been received yesterday and stored in the building. Everything was a complete loss.

Gas formed by the fire, is believed to have been the cause of the explosion, which blew out the brick wall in the rear of the two upper stories and caused the death of one fireman and injury to the others. Firemen are familiar with explosions of this character, which they attribute to the "back draft."

Orders Men Off Ladders. It was because of fear of just such an explosion that Chief Wagner, who responded to the second alarm, ordered the men off the ladders at the front of the building. When the explosion came all the front windows were blown out and the flames licked the side of the building where they had been standing a few seconds before. Several ladders were almost burned up.

Some idea of the force of the explosion may be gained by the fact that a heavy iron girder in the back, used to support the brick wall above the third story, was bent and twisted as though it had been a piece of half-inch pipe.

"It seemed to me," said Captain Reynolds, who was one of the men injured, "that there was no warning whatsoever of any danger. We were playing the water through the windows when there was a flash, a muffled noise, and then I knew I was falling through space. Bricks and everything else it seemed kept raining on us, but most of us were not so badly hurt but what we could work our way out."

Chief Wagner was especially pleased with the work done by the men in getting out of the building where it was more effectively used.

Police Called Out. It afforded the only means of fighting the flames from the front of the building. By using two turrets and the main stand pipe, a quantity of water was thrown through the windows on the top floor.

The large crowd gathered necessitated calling out the police reserves of several precincts.

The south side of the Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets was roped off until after the fire was under control.

The fire was discovered by Charles Dolphus, of 109 John Marshall place, who sent in the first alarm. Dolphus was walking up Pennsylvania avenue when he saw smoke coming out of the windows of the tobacco store.

The loss of the Washington Tobacco Company is covered by \$120,000 insurance. The building is fully insured, while it is understood insurance covers the other losses. Slight damage was also done by water to the Boston Hotel, above the Toledo Cafe.

Fire Marshal Nicholson estimates the damage as follows: Stock of Washington Tobacco Company, \$120,000; completely destroyed; buildings, owned by the J. B. Kendall estate, \$10,000; Jack Ryan's saloon, \$1,200; E. B. Adams Company, \$500; by water; Toledo Cafe, \$200.

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Chief Wagner's Tribute to Dead Fireman

"My friendship with Captain Brown began when he was appointed a member of the Fire Department, in 1892. He was a brave and gallant fireman, always faithful in the performance of his duties, and a tried and trusted friend."

"In his death the department sustains a deep loss. His wife and children have my sincerest sympathy. I have ordered that the flag on all the engine and truck houses in the District be displayed at half-mast until after the funeral."—Chief Frank A. Wagner.

Funeral of Captain Brown to Be Held At St. Dominic's Church

Funeral ceremonies for Timothy J. Brown, captain of Fire Company No. 4, who was killed this morning at the fire which destroyed the tobacco house at 608 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, will be held at St. Dominic's Catholic Church, where requiem masses will be celebrated at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Interment will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Members of Keane Council No. 353, Knights of Columbus, of which Captain Brown had been a member, will attend the funeral in a body.

Captain Brown was born in Lynn, Mass., forty-seven years ago, and came to Washington when a young man. He first entered the service of the Fire Department in 1892, as a private. In 1897 he was made lieutenant, and in 1902 was raised to the rank of captain.

He is survived by his widow, Catherine E. Brown, and by six children, the eldest of whom is fifteen years old. The youngest is but a few months old. Mrs. Brown is prostrated by the shock of her husband's sudden death.

Members of Captain Brown's company speak of him in terms of highest praise.

West End Camp Will Hold Its Annual Rally

West End Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, will hold its annual rally Monday night in Pythian Temple, and Columbia Camp, combined with its auxiliary, Fedella Camp, Royal Neighbors of America, will entertain their friends in the same building Thursday evening.

Many of the camps of the Modern Woodmen have recently held rallies. Brightwood Camp, No. 12106, gave its first social affair Wednesday evening in their hall on Georgia avenue and Long-leaf avenue.

\$2.00 to Luray, Va., and Return, Baltimore & Ohio, Sunday, Oct. 15. Special train leaves Union Station 8:15 A. M.—Adv.

PHOEBE COUZINS TO SUE BREWERS FOR OLD ANNUITY

Noted Woman Says Association Is Taking Advantage of Busch's Ill Health.

Maintaining that representatives of the United States Brewers' Association, taking advantage of the feeble health of Adolphus Busch, one of its strongest members, who now is in Europe in a serious condition, are trying to take from her an annuity which she says was pledged to her years ago, Miss Phoebe Cousins, during her day one of the most prominent woman lawyers and lecturers in the country, is preparing to go to New York to bring suit against the company.

Miss Cousins declares that the statement of Hugh F. Fox, secretary of the association, made to The Times in response to a telegram sent the organization, to the effect that she never has received a salary from it, is untrue. This, she says, she will be able to prove in court. A large stack of letters written by officers of the association during past years, in which references are made to checks for Miss Cousins, supposed to have been enclosed, and which she has in her possession, will be used as evidence, she says.

Denies Her Claim. Hugh F. Fox, secretary of the United States Brewers' Association, today sent the following telegram to The Times:

"This association does not owe Phoebe Cousins anything. She never has received a salary from us, nor was she ever a member of our staff. Whatever legal services she may have rendered for the brewers were paid for years ago."

The telegram was shown to Miss Cousins, who has taken quarters in a downtown hotel.

"I suspected that some such denial would be made," she exclaimed, "and I now have an idea how the association will try to defeat me. It is singular that my annuity of

from \$250 to \$350 a month would have been sent to me regularly until a few months ago, if the association did not think I was entitled to it. "True it is that the association itself never has figured in the transactions. The payments always have been made by Adolphus Busch and officers of the organization, by mail and by check. The lettershead of the association never were on any letters written me, but the signatures of the officials writing the letters always were signed legibly. I have scores of them with me now."

Letters Not Answered. "Eddie" Faust, son-in-law of Adolphus Busch, came to me some months ago and asked if I objected to the payments being made from St. Louis, instead of from New York. I told him that I did not; that so long as the payments were made, I would be satisfied.

"He gave me \$1,000 in bills, and told me that amount would have to last me until the transfer was legally made. It seemed to be a legitimate transaction, and I accepted the bills. I have heard nothing from the association since."

"The officials have refused to answer my letters. I shall go to New York and bring suit against the association just as soon as my health and my financial resources permit."

Miss Cousins said that as soon as the health of Mr. Busch, who always had befriended her, broke down and he was taken abroad, the association refused to pay her further for past services. She never has been able to reach Mr. Busch by wire or letter, she said.

\$2.25 to Baltimore and Return, Saturdays and Sundays, via Pennsylvania Railroad. Tickets good to return until Sunday night. All regular trains except "Congressional Limited."—Adv.

SPECIAL NOTICES ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Monday last, at his home in Brooklyn, N. Y., of Mr. Frederick G. Smith, Manufacturer of the Bradbury Piano, in no way affects the Washington business.

Mr. Smith, Sr., retired from the Presidency of the Washington house two years ago.

The F. G. Smith Piano Company, of Washington, is a separate corporation under the District Laws, with the following officers:

Mr. F. G. Smith, Jr., President. Mr. W. P. Van Winkle, Vice President. Mr. A. J. Powell, Treasurer. Mr. Frank G. Smith, Secretary. Mr. J. J. Darlington, General Counsel. Mr. Victor J. Becker, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Edwin K. Staley, Assistant Treasurer. The new Bradbury Building is located at 1217 F Street.

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